

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|             |   |                   |                 |
|-------------|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| Applicant:  | Eric L.Gray et al.                                | Confirmation No.: | 8940            |
| Serial No.: | 10/821,617  | Examiner:         | Michael J. Araj |
| Filed:      | April 9, 2004                                     | Group Art Unit:   | 3775            |
| Docket No.: | 1292.1223101                                      | Customer No.:     | 28075           |
| Title:      | TEMPORARY SPINAL FIXATION APPARATUSES AND METHODS |                   |                 |

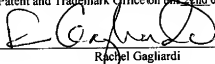
**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

MAIL STOP: AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on this 2nd day of April, 2009.

By



Rachel Gagliardi

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action of the Examiner mailed February 27, 2009, with a shortened statutory period set to expire on May 27, 2009.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.